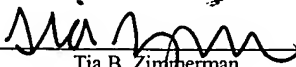


PATENT  
Docket No. 247322002200  
Client Ref. 031220/US

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV332776964US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 21, 2004.

  
Tia B. Zimmerman

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of:

Katsuyuki KAWAMURA et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith

For: DECODER CIRCUIT, AND PHOTO-  
DETECTING AMPLIFIER CIRCUIT  
AND OPTICAL PICKUP INCLUDING  
THE DECODER CIRCUIT FOR DISK  
RECORDING/REPRODUCING  
APPARATUS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98**

MS Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents are also submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☒ With the application; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) has been provided.
- ☐ Within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) has been provided.
- ☐ After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
  - ☐ A fee is required. A check in the amount of \_\_\_ is enclosed.
  - ☐ A fee is required. Accordingly, a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17) is attached to this submission in duplicate.
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above; accordingly; no fee is believed to be due.
- ☐ After mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a check in the amount of \_\_\_ is enclosed.
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17 is attached to this submission in duplicate.)

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO-1449, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p)) is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **247322002200**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: April 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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<b>Form PTO-1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b>  <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Docket Number 247322002200	Application Number Not Yet Assigned
	Applicant  Katsuyuki KAWAMURA et al.	
	Filing Date Concurrently Herewith	Group Art Unit Not Yet Assigned
	Mailing Date April 21, 2004	

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation YES NO	
	1.	02/19/1990	JP 2-6684	Japan			Abstract	
	2.	08/29/2000	2000-236251	Japan			Abstract	

### OTHER DOCUMENTS (including author, title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Title

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not the citation conforms with MPEP 609. Draw a line through the citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.